



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

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Franklin Man Sentenced Minimum of 109 Years for Killing 2-Year-Old Grandson

LINCOLN – Attorney General Bruning today announced Peter Draper, 48, of Franklin was sentenced to a minimum of 109 years in prison for causing the death of his 2-year-old grandson Joseph Rinehart. He received 60 years to life imprisonment for one count of committing intentional child abuse resulting in death and 49 to 50 years in prison for one count of child abuse resulting in serious bodily injury. The sentences will run consecutively. He was convicted of the charges in May 2013.

“This man brutally abused his young grandson until he died,” said Bruning. “Today’s sentence ensures he will spend the rest of his life behind bars.”

Joseph was pronounced dead after his mother Laura Rinehart and grandmother Nancy Draper brought him to Franklin County Memorial Hospital on April 30, 2012.

An autopsy showed cause of death to be multiple blunt force traumas to the boy’s head, trunk and extremities. Joseph’s body was bruised and his skull, pelvis and ribs were fractured.

Joseph’s 4-year-old sibling told authorities Peter Draper had hit Joseph in the stomach and knocked him to the ground. Earlier incidents of child abuse by Peter Draper were discovered as the investigation continued.

Laura Rinehart and Nancy Draper were also charged in relation to Joseph death. In August, Rinehart was sentenced 12 to 22 years in prison for one count of attempted child abuse resulting in death. Nancy Draper was sentenced 20 to 30 years for one count of child abuse resulting in serious bodily injury.

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